STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME: Common: ____________________________ Historically: John Wilcox House

2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: Westfield COUNTY: Middlesex

3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 591 Middle Street

4. OWNER(S): Ernest R. and Stella N. Phillips  PUBLIC x PRIVATE

5. USE: Present: Residence Historic: x same

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: x yes no Interior accessible: x yes, explain with occupant’s permission no

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Center-Chimney Colonial (saltbox) DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1738

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
   - x clapboard asbestos siding
   - wood shingle asphalt siding
   - board & batten stucco
   - aluminum siding concrete type:
   - other: brick fieldstone cobblestone x cut stone type: brownstone rubble foundation

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
   - x wood frame: x post and beam balloon
   - load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
   - other:

10. ROOF: type: gable flat mansard monitor sawtooth
    - gambrel shed hip round x other saltbox
    - material: wood shingle roll asphalt tin slate
    - asphalt shingle built up tile other

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 32'x40'

12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent x good fair deteriorated
    Exterior: excellent x good fair deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY: Location: x on original site moved, when:
    Alterations: no x yes, explain: Chimney removed

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
    - x barn x shed garage other landscape features or buildings:
    - carriage house shop garden

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
    - x open land woodland residential x scattered buildings visible from site
    - commercial x industrial rural high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This ancient saltbox house faces east from the west side of Middle Street near the intersection with Smith Street. It occupies a rise on a steep slope which continues up behind the house. Middle Street in this area displays a mixture of dwellings and light industry scattered about this still rural section of Westfield.
17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):
Single overhang at attic level

SIGNIFICANCE
Architect: __________________________  Builder: __________________________

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This house was probably built around 1738 by John Wilcox. Many of his ten children settled in Westfield and built homes, several of which are extant. This house remained in the Wilcox family until 1851 when it was purchased by the Rev. Stephen Hayes, pastor of the Westfield Congregational Church. In 1855 it was acquired by James Nolan. It passed out of the Nolan family in 1944 and since then has had several owners.

The single overhang at the attic level is a rare feature among Middletown's few remaining saltbox houses. This house dates from the earliest settlement of Westfield and was long associated with one of the area's most prominent families. Its presence is a strong reminder of Westfield's past in stark contrast to the recent industrial development nearby.

PHOTOGRAPH
photographer: John E. Reynolds  date: 9/78  view: southeast
negative on file: Roll 47, #14A-15

COMPiled BY:  
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19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; Middletown Probate Court Records; Commemorative Biography of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.H. Beers, 1903); 1859 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Atlas

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

- [ ] none known  _____ highways  _____ vandalism  _____ developers  _____ other:
- [ ] renewal  _____ private  _____ deterioration  _____ zoning  _____ explanation: